



# Santa Rosa County District 1 Newsletter

## *A Message From Your Commissioner*

**Vice-chair & District 1  
Commissioner  
Jim Williamson**

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As we celebrate the holiday season, we have so much to be thankful for in Santa Rosa County. Even though we are still experiencing tough economic times, the board of county commissioners was able to adopt a balanced budget for the 2010/2011 fiscal year without any tax increase. The board, its employees and all the constitutional officers continue to work together to provide the best services possible at the lowest cost possible for the taxpayer. The spirit of cooperation will continue to help make Santa Rosa County a great place to work, play and live. Better days are coming and we will have to continue working together as we all look forward to a better economy.

It has been two years since I was elected as your district 1 commissioner. I am blessed to have a great staff to work with and I will continue to be the voice of the people during my remaining two years of service.

My family and I thank you again, for giving me the opportunity to serve you and wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Your public servant,

**Jim Williamson**  
**Commission Vice-chair &  
District 1 Commissioner**

### Archie Glover Park Canal Dredging Project Update

Santa Rosa County received a grant through the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Florida Boating Improvement Program in October of 2008 to perform maintenance dredging operations for the Archie Glover Park Canal where the canal extends into Escambia Bay. Design was started by the county engineering department in December of 2008, with permit application submittals going to Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in April of 2009. The FDEP permit was received two weeks later but the USACOE permit took nine months to obtain due to review by the US Dept of Marine Fisheries. The project limits extend from approximately 100 feet East of the Interstate 10 Bridge abutment wall to approximately 900 feet into Escambia Bay for a total length of 1,000 feet. The canal is an existing canal originally established in the late 1960's during the original I-10 bridge construction that has silted in over the past few years due to sediment drift from storms and the construction of the new I-10 bridge. This canal was last dredged in 1998 due to sedimentation from hurricanes in 1995.

The proposed channel will be dredged to a bottom elevation of -5.50 feet, a bottom width of 30 feet, and a top width of 40 feet. There will be approximately 2,700 cubic yards of sediment to be removed. Santa Rosa County has confirmed progress so far by performing a follow up survey to make sure the contractor is providing the cross section shown on the plans. A complete verification survey will be performed upon completion of dredging operations.

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The dredge spoils containment basin seen from Interstate 10 is roughly 60 feet wide by 1,000 feet long and approximately four feet deep. The requested use of return water back to Escambia Bay was denied by FDEP, thus the contractor has only been able to dredge for two days and has to wait five days for the dredge water to soak into the ground providing room to fill up the spoil pond again. This has caused the project to go much longer than anticipated. The county once again worked with FDOT to utilize an existing retention pond near the spoil pond to further treat the filtered dredge water prior to it entering Escambia Bay. We anticipate this will speed up the recovery time between pumping/recovery cycles and allow the project to finish before the end of 2010.



Once the dredging operations are complete and the dredge water has percolated through the native soils in the containment basin and the material has dried to be suitable for transport, the Santa Rosa County Road and Bridge Department will haul away the spoils to the county landfill to be used for cover, and return the containment area to its original condition prior to construction. The area will be stabilized and the appropriate erosion control measures will remain in place as needed. Upon completion of the dredging operations, new channel markers will be installed per US Coast Guard regulations.

## Road Improvements In the Works

Two major road improvements are planned for the future. At this time, plans have been developed, but right-of-way and construction funding has not yet been secured. The commission continues to work towards making both projects a reality.

### **Five Points Improvement Project Phase 1 Estimated Cost \$2.55 M**

The Five Points improvement project consists of operational, capacity and safety improvements to the existing five-way signalized intersection in the Woodbine/Berryhill/Chumuckla Highway area.

Improvements include reconstruction of existing rural roadways to multi-lane divided urban roadways. The improvements provide for the relocation of Berryhill Road to approximately 700 feet north of its existing intersection with Chumuckla Highway and replacing the existing signalized intersection with two signalized locations.

This provides improvements in the safety and operational capacity of the roadway network located in this rapidly developing area of Santa Rosa County. The improvements include reconstruction of 1,200 feet of Chumuckla Highway and relocation of 2,600 feet of Berryhill Road. The project complies with all applicable federal, state and local requirements for stormwater treatment and attenuation. The improvements will require the relocation of multiple utilities including water and sewer, overhead electric and cable television, large natural gas transmission and distribution network, and telephone/fiber optic communication facilities.

### **Woodbine Reconstruction Project Estimated Cost \$29.1 M**

The Woodbine Road reconstruction project includes operational, capacity and safety improvements to an existing major north-south

transportation corridor in western Santa Rosa County, Florida. The improvements include complete reconstruction of the existing rural roadway to a six-lane divided urban facility with sidewalks. The Woodbine Road project extends from U.S. Hwy. 90 northward for approximately three miles where it connects to the Five Points Intersection. Improvements include access management which will limit the number of median openings reducing traffic crossing maneuvers improving the roadway capacity and safety. The project utilizes a closed drainage system and complies with all applicable federal, state and local requirements for stormwater treatment and attenuation. The improvements will require the relocation of multiple utilities including water and sewer, overhead electric and cable television, large natural gas transmission and distribution network, and telephone/fiber optic communication facilities.





# Santa Rosa District 1 News

## Pilot Transit Program Begins Service

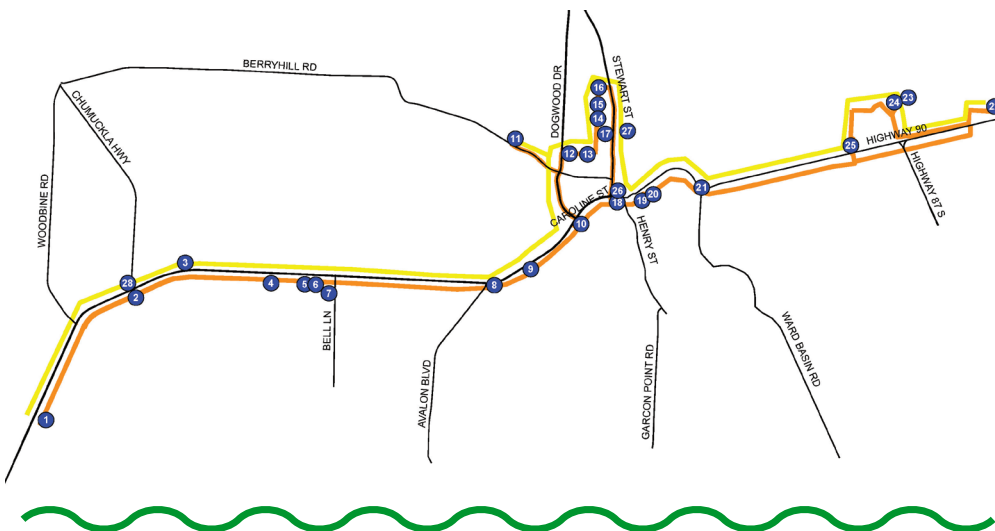
Santa Rosa Transit, a pilot public transportation program primarily along U.S. Hwy. 90, from the Santa Rosa Industrial Park to a connection to the Escambia County Area Transit system at Nine Mile Road and University Parkway, began service on Tuesday, December 7. The bus service along the approximately 23 mile route is primarily designed to help residents with transportation needs to and from work, but also helps provide access to medical services, shopping and government offices throughout the day.

Santa Rosa Transit service is provided through cooperation of the Santa Rosa Board of County Commissioners, Pensacola Bay Transportation LLC, the Florida – Alabama Transportation Planning Organization, and the Federal Transit Administration. Santa Rosa County is the project manager, the Florida – Alabama Transportation Planning Organization procured the buses and is the federal grant recipient, and Pensacola Bay Transportation LLC is the operator. The bus service is a pilot program, which will be evaluated after one year of service. For more information about the Santa Rosa Transit program including general operations, partners, funding or adding additional bus stop locations, contact Nancy Model, Santa Rosa County Transportation Planner at (850) 981-7080 or visit [www.santarosa.fl.gov/transit](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/transit).



### About the service:

- Fare to use the transportation service is \$1 or one ticket.
- Riders must have correct change or a ticket as drivers cannot make change and do not have access to the fare box. Children ride free if height is equal to or shorter than the fare box.
- Riders can pre-purchase individual or multiple tickets for \$1 each at:
  - » SRC Public Services  
6051 Old Bagdad Hwy,  
Suite 202 in Milton
  - » Pensacola Bay Transportation  
3100 McCormick Street  
in Pensacola
- Riders continuing on the ECAT system must purchase an additional ECAT fare ticket.
- Service is available Monday through Friday, except holidays.
- Buses are equipped with wheelchair lifts.
- Buses are equipped with bicycle carriers. Bikes ride for free.
- Ride guides with bus stop locations and schedule are available on the bus or online at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/transit](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/transit).



## Pace Tennis May Grow in Coming Years

The Pace Area Tennis Association is working with commissioners Salter and Williamson and county staff to develop a plan to improve access to tennis facilities in Pace. PATA currently has a management agreement with the county to oversee the development of tennis programs at the Santa Rosa Sports Complex through tournaments, junior tennis camps, clinics, league play and the USTA Quick Start Tennis Program. Norman Lacsamana is teaching tennis for PATA and offering programs for adults and kids of all skill levels. The organization would like to utilize undeveloped space at Benny Russell Park to build four 78 foot courts, four quick start courts without lights, a 2,000 square foot building to house restrooms, offices, concessions; walkways and additional parking. The estimate for the project is \$500,000, which costs could be reduced through grant funding and donations, and shared between PATA and district 1 and district 3 recreational funds.

PATA is looking for tennis enthusiasts to help grow this sport in our community. For more information, contact PATA at (850) 994-8741 or [paceareatennis@gmail.com](mailto:paceareatennis@gmail.com).





# Santa Rosa District 1 News

## Keep Your Holidays Bright Promotes Holiday Fire Safety Campaign

Santa Rosa County emergency service agencies are teaming up for the fourth year to promote fire safety during the month of December with the "Keep Your Holidays Bright" campaign. While a joyous time of year, cold weather, holiday decorations and festivities can create serious fire dangers. Fire fighters hope to reduce the number of fires in Santa Rosa County by promoting simple, life-saving holiday safety tips each day, December 1 through the 31.

In addition to the daily fire safety tips, Santa Rosa's Keep Your Holidays Bright campaign centers around a Christmas tree located in the Santa Rosa County Administration Complex on Caroline Street, decorated with electric candles. Each time firefighters respond to a working residential fire or large wildfire causing fire damage, a candle will be "extinguished" and replaced with a card noting the basic details of the fire. In the first year nine candles were extinguished on the safety tree, three in the second year, and six in the 2009 campaign.

According to the United States Fire Administration, fires occurring during the holiday season claim the lives of over 400 people, injure 1,650, and cause over \$990 million in damage. Nationally, cooking is the leading cause of residential building fires in December, accounting for 41 percent of fires, followed by heating fires at 28 percent, open flame fires at nine percent, and incendiary/suspicious fires seven percent.

Each fire department in Santa Rosa County including Allentown Volunteer Fire, Avalon Fire/Rescue, Bagdad Volunteer Fire, Berrydale Volunteer Fire, the City of Milton Fire, East Milton Fire and Rescue, Gulf Breeze Volunteer Fire, Harold Volunteer Fire, Holley-Navarre Fire District, Jay Volunteer Fire, Midway Fire District, Munson Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Inc.; Navarre Beach Fire, Pace Fire/Rescue District, Skyline Fire and Rescue District, Division of Forestry, Santa Rosa County Emergency Management and Lifeguard Ambulance Service are working together to promote holiday safety.

## Partners for Pets Donation Makes a Great Holiday Gift for Animal Lovers

Looking for a gift for the animal loving friend or family member this holiday season? Give a Partner for Pets gift donation in their name! Making a gift donation not only shows that you understand and support their love and passion of protecting and caring for animals, but directly helps the quality of life of our local pets. With a donation of any amount, animal services will mail a personalized holiday greeting card with your message to notify them of your gift in their honor. Partners for Pets donations are tax-deductible and unlike national donation plans, 100 percent of all Partners for Pets donations will benefit animals in Santa Rosa County. Gift donations can be made securely online at [www.santarosa.fl.gov/partnersforpets](http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/partnersforpets) or by requesting a donation form by calling (850) 983-4680.

Santa Rosa County Animal Services Partners for Pets program was established in October 2009 with the goal of finding every adoptable pet a loving, forever home. In the first year \$10,573 was donated to the Santa Rosa County shelter. Donations to the program are used to enhance current animal service efforts including creating a low cost spay and neuter voucher program, increasing educational outreach on the benefits of spaying and neutering, and offering more adoption events throughout the county.

Unlike private shelters that can have limitations on the number of animals they accept, Santa Rosa County's shelter accepts each one with over 8,400 animals passing through their doors in fiscal year 2009/2010. Unfortunately, only an average of 11 percent are adopted, sent to rescue organizations or reunited with their families when found straying from home. Sterilization of pets is the best solution to the overpopulation problem in our county. In addition to the gift donation, many other types and levels of support are available including a supply donations, one time-donations, monthly supporter and memorial gifts.

